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Canadian Heritage Minister releases final canal report

OTTAWA, June 12, 1995 - The Honourable Michel Dupuy, Minister of Canadian Heritage, today released the final report on Ontario's canals entitled "Rideau and Trent-Severn Historic Canals : Corridors of Change", and he emphasized his support for the report's recommendations.

The report was commissioned by Parks Canada to examine the canals from the perspectives of efficiency, effective service delivery, and tourism opportunities. "This represents an important step toward identifying innovative and practical measures to long-standing concerns facing Ontario's historic canals," said Minister Dupuy. "The Government must encourage greater efficiency in cost-savings, increased revenues and innovative marketing approaches. Not only must we make the canals more useful for local communities, but we will achieve greater economic and recreational benefit by building on their potential as international and domestic tourism attractions," he added.

"We must not forget that the canals provide an essential service connecting many of Canada's waterways. Canadians care about our natural, cultural, historical and physical heritage, and the federal government shares the determination to make Canada's canals a model of efficiency and excellence in service," he concluded.

In preparing the report, the three-member canals' review team consulted with stakeholders and representatives of many interest groups and received written submissions from stakeholders and individuals.

The Minister expressed his sincere thanks to the team members, Jim Keenan, Don Golding and Paula Niece as well as to the many groups and individuals who played a role in the development of the report designed to guide management of the canals into the next century.

Information :

John Lewis
Superintendent
Trent-Severn Waterway
(705) 742-9267

Neil Wilson
Press Secretary
Minister's Office
(819) 994-7788